



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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### **CAMPAIGN 2000: INITIATIVE TO KILL CAR TAX ON THE STREET WITH GOOD SHOT AT QUALIFICATION.**

Editor's note: An initiative to totally eliminate the Vehicle License Fee – aka *The Car Tax* – is on the street. And there's a good-sized campaign underway to make sure it qualifies for the Mar. 7, 2000 ballot. Here's our update & analysis...

...The initiative's sponsors, Assemblyman Tom McClintock(R-Northridge) and State Sen. Ray Haynes (R-Riverside), view their measure as the biggest taxpayer battle since Prop. 13 – and so does the Calif. Republican Party, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. and People's Advocate. All three groups are getting ready to mail petitions to hundreds of thousands of voters across Calif. These groups think this VLF initiative is the GOP's *silver bullet* for Campaign 2000. Maybe, maybe not...

...In addition, Tom McClintock's Cmt. to Stop the Car Tax (the formal name of McClintock's committee) has hired Santa Monica-based Progressive Campaigns to collect signatures on the street. Sources say McC & Company hope to turn in 1 million signatures by Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, well ahead of the 8/23/99 deadline. The measure goes by the name of *Keeping the Promise Initiative* and it would totally eliminate the VLF...

...For those who haven't been keeping track (and most haven't been), former Gov. Pete Wilson(R) signed a bill last year giving Calif. car owners a permanent 25% reduction in the VLF, with a promise of further cuts if the revenue was there. Our sources suspect that McClintock didn't think there would ever be another VLF rate reduction --- and that's our guess as to why he calls his initiative, *Keeping the Promise*...

...But guess what? There's another big surplus in this

year's budget. As reported last week, GOP and Demo Senate leaders passed their version of the 1999-2000 budget with **\$500 million** earmarked for another VLF cut (to bring the VLF rate down from 1.5% to 1.3%). What does this do to McClintock's measure???

...Some think it undercuts McClintock's initiative, while others say it only enhances his effort. But there are some problems ahead. Local government gets 1% of the VLF and uses those funds for public safety and other vital services. McClintock says his initiative will replace those lost VLF funds, but others have doubts. And in Orange Co., the VLF secures the county's bankruptcy bonds. Eliminate that funding stream and there could be a bondholder lawsuit...

...Two other problems. If the State goes ahead and lowers the VLF on its own once again, passage of McClintock's initiative will likely result in a tax hike, according to our sources. And if the VLF is killed, it will place your personal car on the property tax rolls. It's all very technical stuff, but troubling. Stay tuned...

### **CAMPAIGN 2000: INITIATIVE TO REDUCE 2/3rds VOTE TO 50% ON SCHOOL BONDS IS NOW IN CIRCULATION**

Editor's note: Supporters of an initiative to reduce the current 2/3rds vote requirement for local school bonds have begun a drive to qualify their measure. Here's our update & analysis...

...The official ballot title is *School Facilities Bonds. Local Majority Vote. Constitutional Amendment*. But the committee goes by the name of "Let's Fix Our Schools" Committee, with current CTA president Lois Tinson and Technology Network CEO Reed Hastings as the chairs. State Sen. Jack O'Connell(D-Santa Barbara) is the honorary chair. FYI: he is the author of SCA 1, which is very similar to this initiative...

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... Sacto-based Gale Kaufman is the lead consultant and Kimball Petition Mgt. is handling the paid signature effort. Legal services have been provided by at least 3 well known firms: Bagatelos & Fadem, Nielsen, Merksamer and Remcho Johansen & Purcell. More consultants will be added later. The website for LFOS is [www.letsfixourschools.com](http://www.letsfixourschools.com)...

... The committee is shooting for the **March 2000** ballot. The official deadline for submitting more than 1 million signatures is 9/13/99, but in reality the petitions must be submitted to the registrars by Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> to insure enough time for a random sample count...

... The campaign to reduce the 2/3rds vote to a simple majority isn't going to be all that easy, even though the need for new and/or repaired classrooms is critical. The last time a majority vote for local school bonds was on the ballot in the form of Prop. 170, it was mashed in a Nov. 2, 1993 special election: **69.3% NO** vs. only **30.6% YES**. Forde & Mollich ran the NO campaign and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. pumped in about \$1 million. The key argument back then was that if you lowered the vote requirement, 9 out of 10 local school bonds would pass, causing property taxes to skyrocket. That argument still holds...

... But there's a different climate in Calif. today and there's no doubt that education is the #1 issue of voter concern. Additionally, in 1993 Calif.'s economy wasn't as strong as it today and YES on 170 was underfunded. In addition, Prop. 170 was overshadowed by Prop. 174 (vouchers) and Prop. 172 (1/2 cent sales tax hike for public safety)...

... This time around there should be adequate funding, especially with Hastings on the team. Hastings and many of his Silicon Valley allies are big supporter of charter schools – and charter schools are a part of this measure. Nevertheless, our sources say the anti-tax crowd has threatened the business community with a split property tax roll initiative if they support this 50% vote for local school bonds...

... Prop. 1A and the Class Size Reduction Act provides state matching funds for new classroom construction, but only if there are local matching funds. According to LFOS (Let's Fix Our Schools), since 1986, **94%** of all local school bonds have received at least a 50%

vote, but only **53%** have hit that 2/3rds mark. More than 560 school districts who would like to get 1A matching funds have not even attempted a local bond election because they don't have the resources needed to get the 2/3rds vote, according to LFOS. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN '99: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.**  
Editor's note: Here's another update about early spring municipal elections...

◆ **Laguna Beach** – Last week, by a **55% vs. 45%** margin, voters in Laguna Beach approved plans for a new luxury resort and 34 homes to be built along the coast. The 275-room resort hotel was backed by proponent Merrill Lynch, who spent nearly \$400,000. The opponents, led by Duane Roberts, spent about \$300,000. The YES campaign was run by San Diego based Campaign Strategies. The resort isn't a done deal just yet. There are still some permits and council commissions which must give the final OK...

◆ **L.A. City's 10<sup>th</sup> District** – Calpeek reported last week that consultant Parke Skelton has taken over the campaign of challenger Madison Shockley from The Englander Group. Skelton will handle direct mail, but The Englander Group will continue to assist on strategy and will handle press relations. Shockley is in an uphill June 8<sup>th</sup> runoff battle with incumbent Councilman Nate Holden...

◆ **L.A. City's 14<sup>th</sup> District** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher Victor Griego got two big boosts last week: he was endorsed by the SEIU and by 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher Alvin Parra in his June 8<sup>th</sup> runoff with 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher Nick Pacheco. The SEIU's backing means the entire AFL-CIO is now solidly behind Griego...

◆ **L.A. City's 7<sup>th</sup> District** – In the endorsement game in this open council seat, 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher Alex Padilla has won endorsements from former 7<sup>th</sup> CD Councilman Ernani Bernardi, U.S. Rep. Howard Berman(D), and Corina Alarcon, the estranged wife of now State Sen. Richard Alarcon(D), who held this council seat before his election to the CA Legislature. Sen. Alarcon has endorsed Padilla rival Corinne Sanchez...

◆ **Beverly Hills** – The fur will literally be flying on May 11<sup>th</sup> when voters go to the polls to cast ballots on

Prop. A – a measure to require department stores to put warning tags on fur coats. The tag tell customers how the animals were killed to get their pelts. Lots of controversy here and the *politically correct crowd*, including movie stars, are lining up on the YES side. Lots of lawn signs and mail. Turnout could be 20%. Both campaigns are being run by locals. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.**

Editor's note: Here's another update on key legislative races for 2000...

☒ **23<sup>rd</sup> SD** – Demo Assemblyman Wally Knox has officially announced his candidacy to replace Tom Hayden (D-West L.A.), who is *termed out*. Knox announced his candidacy via a letter mailed to 1,500 key supporters. And in the letter, Knox said that he has been endorsed by L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and L.A. Council Pres. John Ferraro. Knox's key Demo opponent is Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl...

☒ **ARPAC's New Team** – The new leadership of the Assembly Republican PAC includes Leader Scott Baugh as chair; Pat Bates, vice chair; Roy Ashburn, election cmt. chair; and Bill Campbell, finance cmt. chair...

☒ **67<sup>th</sup> AD** – A real GOP slugfest is brewing in this AD now held by GOP Assembly Leader Scott Baugh, who is *termed out*. GOP activist Jim Righeimer's campaign this Orange Co. AD has picked up the endorsements of O.C. DA Tony Rackaukas and O.C. Treas. John Moorlach. U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R) and Baugh have already endorsed Righeimer, whose key GOP opponent is former Assemblyman Dennis Brown. Brown has been endorsed by U.S. Rep. Ed Royce; State Senators Ross Johnson, John Lewis and Bill Morrow; and Assemblymembers Dick Ackerman, Pat Bates and Ken Maddox. FYI: Brown also claims the endorsement of O.C. DA Tony Rackaukas...

☒ **52<sup>nd</sup> AD** – This is solid Demo turf, but there are indications of a real monster primary battle. Among the Demos who are said to be looking: Lynwood Councilman Arturo Reyes, Compton School Bd. member Basil Kimbrew, Compton Mayor Omar Bradley, Lynwood School Bd. member Cynthia Green-Geter, Gardena Councilman Steve Bradford and Mike Davis, an aide to Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke. This AD belongs to Demo

Assemblyman Carl Washington who is exploring a run for State Sen. Teresa Hughes' 25<sup>th</sup> SD...

☒ **51<sup>st</sup> AD** – Again, very solid Demo territory now belonging to Assemblyman Ed Vincent of Inglewood. Vincent, like Washington, is eyeing Hughes' 25<sup>th</sup> SD, and sources believe he's a favorite for now over Washington. Believe it or not, if Hughes were to run for the 51<sup>st</sup> AD, she'd have 2 terms. However, no word of that. Instead, sources hear these names: Hawthorne Mayor Larry Guidi, Inglewood Councilman Curren Price, and Inglewood School Bd. member Thomasina Reed...

**CAMPAIGN 2000: PRESIDENTIAL WEBSITES LISTED**

Editor's note: Want to get political info about the various candidates running for President in 2000? Visit their websites:

|                   |                                                              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Al Gore(D)        | <a href="http://www.gore2000.org">www.gore2000.org</a>       |
| Bill Bradley(D)   | <a href="http://www.billbradley.com">www.billbradley.com</a> |
| Gary Bauer(R)     | <a href="http://www.bauer2k.com">www.bauer2k.com</a>         |
| Elizabeth Dole(R) | <a href="http://www.edole2000.org">www.edole2000.org</a>     |
| Steve Forbes(R)   | <a href="http://www.forbes2000.com">www.forbes2000.com</a>   |
| George Bush(R)    | <a href="http://www.georgewbush.com">www.georgewbush.com</a> |
| Pat Buchanan(R)   | <a href="http://www.gopatgo2000.org">www.gopatgo2000.org</a> |
| John Kasich(R)    | <a href="http://www.k2k.org/Kasich">www.k2k.org(Kasich)</a>  |
| Dan Quayle(R)     | <a href="http://www.quayle.org">www.quayle.org</a>           |
| Alan Keyes(R)     | <a href="http://www.keyes2000.org">www.keyes2000.org</a>     |

...Here are websites that wouldn't fit into our format:

|                    |                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lamar Alexander(R) | <a href="http://www.lamaralexander.com">www.lamaralexander.com</a>         |
| John McCain(R)     | <a href="http://www.mccainforpresident.org">www.mccainforpresident.org</a> |
| Bob Smith(R)       | <a href="http://www.smithforpresident.org">www.smithforpresident.org</a>   |

...Stay tuned...

**CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS**

|            |                                                                                                                  |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 12     | L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca addresses So. Calif. Business Assn. luncheon @ Universal City Hilton Hotel. 11:30 a.m. |
| May 19     | Former VP Dan Quayle(R) speaks to the Commonwealth Club, 12:30 p.m., S.F. Hilton Hotel.                          |
| June 8     | L.A. Muni Runoff Election.                                                                                       |
| June 15    | Calif. budget must be passed.                                                                                    |
| July 16-18 | UC Davis Extension's 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Political Campaign Mgt. Institute @UC Davis...                      |

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***The Death of Joyce Valdez*** – One of Calif.'s best liked and admired GOP fundraisers, Joyce Valez, died Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. She was 70. From the 1960s thru 1998, Valdez raised more than \$100 million for GOP candidates and causes. She worked for Presidents Ford, Reagan and Bush, as well as for Calif. Governors George Deukmejian & Pete Wilson. She had been retired for a number of years, but did help the late Sherman Block in his reelection campaign last year. She'll be missed by her many friends. R.I.P...

■ ***Is It Time for a Governor's Mansion?*** GOP Senate Leader Ross Johnson thinks so and has let Gov. Gray Davis(D) know that if Davis goes along, it won't be used as a campaign issue. Bottomline: the time is right to have an official residence for Calif.'s chief executive...

■ ***Campaign Reform Update*** – Keep your eyes on SB 1169 by State Sen. Debra Bowen(D-Marina del Rey). This bill would limit campaign contributions in legislative races to \$5,000 for corporations and organizations and \$2,000 for individuals. It passed the Senate Elections Cmt. April 21<sup>st</sup> on a 3-2 vote. It's now in Senate Rules Cmt. This bill is similar to Bowen's bill of '94 that former Gov. Wilson vetoed...

■ ***Assisted Suicide*** – According to a new survey by pollster Mervin Field, 75% of all Calif. adults believe that incurably ill patients should have the right to ask for and receive life-ending medication. 20% are opposed and 5% are undecided...

■ ***Hispanic CofC in San Diego*** – The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary national convention in San Diego, Sept. 15-18. San Diego Mayor Susan Golding's office estimates a crowd of 5,000, generating nearly \$4 million for the city...

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**CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Save The Bay (aka – Save S.F. Bay Assn.) has moved to 1600 Broadway, Ste. 300, Oakland, CA 94612. New ☎ (510)452-9266...

● Political consultant Jonathan R. Choi has joined Adler Public Affairs in Long Beach as govt. affairs manager...

● Political fundraiser Dan Weitzman, who works for Roberts & Assoc. in Sacto, was reelected as Region 3 Director of the CA Demo Party...

● Political consultant John Kern has closed his Anderson & Kern shop and has opened The Kern Co. at 1158 State St., #120, San Diego, CA 92101. New ☎ (619)515-0874...

● GOP political operative & pollster Steve Kinney has joined Alexandria, VA-based Public Opinion Strategies as a partner. Kinney has open a West Coast office for POS at 1001 Hermosa Ave., #200, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. ☎ (310)798-3030...

● Johanna Williams has been hired as a field rep by U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. She will work the San Fernando Valley, Ventura, Santa Barbara & SLO area...

**CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK**

● **Sacramento law firm** seeks associate attorney, 3-5 years experience to assist with firm's political law practice. Position involves advising clients regarding federal and Calif. laws regulating political campaigns, lobbying activities, public official conflict of interest and ballot measures. Position also involves representing clients before political law regulatory agencies and involvement in litigation. Interest in politics important. Fax resume to: Diane Fishburn - Olson, Hagel, Leidigh, Waters & Fishburn, LLP. Fax(916)442-1280...

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